

10/505465 #4/A

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DT09 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 AUG 2004

In re Application of: ) SPORTS SHOE COVER  
Jeffrey David Wheeler )  
Based on PCT/GB03/00777 )  
Filing Date: February 20, 2003 )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please amend the subject application as follows:

Please delete claims 1-18.

Please add the following claims:

19. (New) A cover for a lace-up boot, the cover comprising solely a continuous elastically expandable sleeve in the form of a single band of one piece construction for stretching around the boot so that the boot is extendable through the sleeve with the toe of the boot protruding from an end of the sleeve, an underside of the sleeve being engageable with a portion of a sole of the boot in a region between the heel and toe of the boot, the sleeve being arranged to grip the boot upper and said portion of the sole so as to hold the sleeve in position on the boot, the sleeve being dimensioned to cover laces of the boot to prevent the latter untying, and the sleeve having a varying axial dimension around its circumference from a top of the sleeve to the bottom of the sleeve when located on a boot with the top of the sleeve being longer than the sleeve bottom.